

BOARD OF HEALTH MINTUES
TOWN BUILDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
JULY 8, 2020

The Board of Health has joined the School Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m. Remote attendance by roll call: John Schuler, M. D. (JS) yes, Arne Soslow M. D. (AS) yes, Susan Green (SG) yes. Dr. Robert DeFrancesco joined the meeting at 2p.m. Also present were Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori, MSN, RN Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader (RM) and Patti White Department Assistant.

Fall reopening plans for schools

Dr. Unobsky presented the three options that will be submitted to DESE, 1 remote, 1 hybrid and one full return. It is felt that the students need the structure of the classroom and the emotional social environment of the classroom. The School Committee is looking for support for their plans for return to school. Health concerns are not just for the students but the teachers and all staff in each school building.

DESSE is asking for plans showing students desks with 3' separation. Lunch time the elementary students will be 6' apart and will be lunching at common areas with desks.

Remote is challenging for Special Education, there are presently 500 individual learning plans and IEP that need to be considered.

Susan Botton, Director of Finance updated the Board on their expected costs to meet safety requirement, with their projected costs to meet the necessary requirements.

All buildings have been fully reviewed to check for proper social distancing and to identify additional desks and chairs that may be needed. Planning for arrival and dismissal as well as general travel through the buildings. Each school will need to establish an isolation room with a COVID coordinator. Facilities will be hiring an engineer/HVAC to be sure there is proper air circulation with upgraded air filters and modify or repair systems as needed. Additional custodial staff will be needed to provide cleaning throughout the day and after lunch sessions. Bussing is being worked on students more than 2miles from school in grades K-6 are required to be transported.

There was continued discussion regarding DESE only requiring 3' spacing for students when the CDC believes everyone should be 6'apart. Schools will be working outdoor time for fresh air learning and allowing for 'mask free time'.

Julia has reached out to DPH, regarding the distances of 3' vs 6'. 6' distancing has been the protocol, CDC website still references 6'. It was announced today that there will be additional CDC guidance next week. Mass DPH did not want to opine on this guidance, they did not create and will not provide. It is from DESSE. They were going to reach out to DESE regarding 3' vs 6'.

Additional discussions as the plans continue to develop.

3:45 p.m. Motion to adjourn second JS JS yes AS yes SG: yes, RD:yes

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
070820minutes

School Committee meeting minutes can be found on their website.

Approved January 10, 2022